

APPROVED: Meeting No. 6-91

ATTEST: *Sharon A. Gran*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 5-91

February 11, 1991

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in General Session in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland Avenue at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland, on February 11, 1991, at 7:35 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember Viola D. Hovsepien

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember David Robbins

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, City Clerk Sharon Gran and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Re: City Manager's Report

1. Regarding the traffic signal at Maryland Avenue, Potomac Valley Road and Falls Road, there has been a continuing desire to have the configuration changed to allow more time for right turn movement off of Falls Road. The State Highway Administration had indicated that installation of this change would be accomplished no later than January 28; as of today, it has yet to be completed. Staff is initiating some new contacts with State officials to attempt to get this change completed as rapidly as possible.

2. The City was honored last week to receive visitors from Indonesia, the island of East Java. The representatives, including the Mayor, the equivalent of our County Executive, Director of Public Works and Director of Revenue, were interested in viewing local government in action, and we are pleased that they selected Rockville to visit.

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3. Last week in USA Today, the top ten swim teams in the country were listed, and we are proud that Rockville was designated as number 4 in the U.S.A.

4. Regarding the Ritchie Parkway Project, an updated timeline will be issued in this week's FYI. We are now able to predict that the segment between Seven Locks Road and Tower Oaks Boulevard will be completed and open to traffic by June of this year; the balance from Tower Oaks Boulevard to Route 355 should be open to traffic by December of this year.

5. On Saturday, February 9, the Lincoln Park community held a celebration to kick off the 100th Anniversary of Lincoln Park. It was a wonderful event and excerpts from the afternoon's activities will be showcased on City Hall Reports. Additionally, the event will be aired in its entirety on a couple of occasions.

Re: Appointments

Upon motion of Councilmember Coyle, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Michael Patterson was appointed to a one-year term as Chairperson of the Historic District Commission.

Upon motion of Councilmember Hovsepian, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Aimee Jennings was appointed to a two-year term on the Recreation and Park Advisory Board.

Upon motion of Councilmember Coyle, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Eve Grover was appointed to a one-year term as Chairperson of the Retirement and Disability Board.

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Armand Capozzi was reappointed to a three-year term on the Senior Citizens Commission.

Upon motion of Councilmember Coyle, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Joseph Batz was appointed to the West End Traffic Management Advisory Group.

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Re: Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Councilmember Robbins, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the minutes of Meeting No. 3-91 (January 28, 1991) were approved, as written.

Upon motion of Councilmember Hovsepian, duly seconded, with Councilmember Robbins abstaining, the minutes of Meeting No. 4-91 (February 4, 1991) were approved, as written.

Re: FYI

Update - Fire Tax Bill

Inasmuch as this issue is moving along quicker than anticipated, Councilmember Coyle asked if there is anything else that should be done at this time. The City Manager responded that it is important to move forward with the informational meeting authorized at the last Mayor and Council meeting. Staff will keep abreast of changing issues and closely monitor the situation. The key event forthcoming is the County Council's public hearing to be held on March 12, 1991. If it is confirmed that the County Council will limit the number of speakers at the public hearing to ten, Mayor Duncan suggested that the City send a letter to County Council President Isiah Leggett protesting this limitation as well as the time scheduled for the hearing, i.e., at 1:30 on a weekday afternoon. The letter sent last year to the County regarding changes to fire tax district boundaries should also be attached.

West Montgomery Avenue Utility Pole Installation

Councilmember Hovsepian questioned whether the City could proceed with moving the lines before the State work is completed. The City Manager responded that existing lines will remain for quite some time as transferring over to new poles is an intricate process which will probably take months. He will follow up with information as to the relationship between the transfer of lines to the actual road construction.

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Re: Citizens' Forum

At this time, the Mayor opened the meeting to hear from any citizen who wished to address the Mayor and Council.

1. Judy Beck, Senior Center Supervisor, introduced Mary Biswell, President of Potomac Nursery School, which is located in the Senior Center. Ms. Biswell stated how pleased the nursery school is with the new playground equipment installed in January. In appreciation for the City allowing the nursery school to use the equipment, the Senior Center was presented with a check in the amount of \$500. Ms. Beck indicated that the Senior Center has a long wish list and would find a good use for the gift.

2. Roald Schrack, 609 McIntyre Road, referenced the recent revision of the election law. He noted that while the intent of the revision was to increase citizen participation, because of its interpretation he felt that political activity in the City had been stifled. He proposed changes which would consist of the replacement of the term "political committee" with the term "campaign committee." He also requested that the term "political organization," removed from the law during the last revision, be reinstated.

Councilmember Hovsepien requested that the City Attorney review Mr. Schrack's suggestions and ensure that they are in legally sufficient form for referral to the Board of Supervisors of Elections for their recommendation. She indicated that all requests for changes should be submitted together in one package for a public hearing.

Councilmember Coyle commented that the intent at the time the election law was revised was to ensure a distinction between civic, neighborhood and special interest organizations as opposed to political campaign organizations. It is difficult to get citizens active in the community, and the laws should encourage rather than discourage citizen participation.

There being no other citizens wishing to be heard, the Mayor closed the Citizens' Forum portion of the meeting.

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Re: Consent Agenda

Mayor Duncan requested that Item C be removed from the Consent Agenda. Upon motion of Councilmember Hovsepian, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

- A. Award of Bid No. 56-91 in the amount of \$73,705 to the low bidder, Meridian Construction Co., Inc., for the installation of fire suppression and emergency systems in the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre Auditorium and lobby as well as fire alarm emergency system in the Social Hall.

CIP funds are budgeted in the total amount of \$105,372 for this project.

- B. Award of Bid No. 66-91 for Hamada 665 CD two-color offset printing press to Patton Printing for the low bid amount of \$22,225.

This will replace the existing 12-year old press in Graphics and Printing Division. Funds were included in the FY91 budget for this purpose.

- D. Purchase from IBM Corporation in the amount of \$134,860 for an upgrade to the IBM mainframe computer from the existing 9370 Model 60 to an ESA Model 130.

Funding for this upgrade is included in the FY91 Data Processing appropriation for capital procurements in the amount of \$134,860.

Re: Approval of City Manager's recommendations for FY91 motor vehicle purchases.

With respect to this item (C) from the Consent Agenda, Mayor Duncan indicated that he is disappointed that the new plan did not have more of an impact on the current

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year's budget; however, the City should realize greater savings in the upcoming budget. Mayor Duncan stated that once the bid for replacement vehicles is received, it will be presented to the Mayor and Council for approval. Councilmember Coyle noted the improvement in that there is now a multi-stage process with the City Manager and staff exercising more control over vehicles.

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the Mayor and Council approved the City Manager's recommendations for FY 91 motor vehicle purchases. The recommended purchase package has been prepared with reference to newly adopted guidelines as a result of the recently completed motor vehicle study.

Re: Correspondence

Councilmember Coyle referenced the letter from Sally Roy, Chairperson of the Alternative Community Service Commission. He noted that they have recently had their first case referral and asked if this is an indication that they will be more active now. The City Manager responded in the affirmative.

Re: New Business

Councilmember Marrinan commented that it has come to his attention that there is some effort underway to ask the County Executive to reconsider the County's commitment to build a new jail. Two years ago, the City was asked to approve placement of modulars pending the building of a new facility. It is appropriate at this time to restate the earlier commitment of the County Executive to relocate much of current County Detention Center to another location, and Councilmember Marrinan requested that such a communication be forwarded to the County Executive. Mayor Duncan indicated that the letter from the County Government stating that the modulars were a temporary addition should be included with the letter to the County Executive. In response to Councilmember Robbins' question as to whether the new facility is still included in the County's CIP, Mayor Duncan responded that it is part of the CIP but that the size of the facility has

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been decreased. The City Manager commented that he would prepare such a letter and attach copies of the County's earlier commitment. Mayor Duncan commented that there should also be letters of support for the new facility to the County Executive and County Council from the surrounding neighborhoods.

Councilmember Coyle referenced a recent special meeting of the COG Public Safety Committee dealing with a resolution coming to the full board on Wednesday to take a strong stance on improving gun control at the federal and state level by adding assault and automatic weapons. Support was noted for COG to take this stronger, more aggressive position.

Councilmember Robbins referenced a recently received letter from a resident concerning financial difficulties some residents are experiencing as a result of Operation Desert Storm. He read excerpts from the letter indicating that some families with deployed spouses are having trouble meeting the needs of their children, such as the City-sponsored T-ball, and asking if the City can waive fees for families serving in Desert Storm. Councilmember Robbins requested that the City Manager take a look at options for lending such support. Mayor Duncan referenced the Rockville Youth Sports Scholarship Fund which would apply in situations such as this and requested that information be disseminated regarding this very successful program for the City and its residents.

Councilmember Marrinan followed up on the kick-off celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Lincoln Park mentioned earlier in the City Manager's Report. He commented that some performances were outstanding, and he wanted the audience to be aware of these performances when the program is aired on Cable Channel 53. In particular, Councilmember Marrinan referred to the performances of Ms. Myrna Powell, the rendition of Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech by Rev. Eric Thomas and musical selections of the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Choir.

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Re: Next Meeting

Items for the next meeting scheduled for February 25, 1991, include: Report on Adopt-a-Road Program; resolution on purchase of recycled products; Board of Appeals Annual Report; and presentation of donation by Twinbrook Citizens Association in appreciation of the Broome Athletic Park sculpture.

Re: Executive Session

Upon motion of Councilmember Hovsepian, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the Mayor and Council convened in executive session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m., to convene again in General Session at 7:30 p.m. on February 25, 1991, or at the call of the Mayor.